

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019914

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 019914 SENT ACTION ABU DHABI, ADDIS ABABA, BANGKOK, BLANTYRE, CAMBERRA, CAPE TOWN, COLOMBO, DACCA, DAR ES SALAAM, ISLAMABAD, JAKARTA, JIDDA, KUALA LUMPUR, KUWAIT, LUSAKA, MANAMA, MOGADISCIO, MUSCAT, NAIROBI, NEW DELHI, PARIS, PORT LOUIS, PRETORIA, RANGOON, SANAA, SINGAPORE, TANANARIVE, TEHRAN, TOKYO, THE HAGUE, WELLINGTON, NATO, MANILA, INFO LONDON, MOSCOW, PEKING, CAIRO, USUN NEW YORK, HONG KONG, CINCPAC HONOLULU HI, CINCEUR, CINCUSNAVEUR, CINCLANT AND TEL AVIV DATED 30 JAN 1974:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019914

COLOMBO ALSO FOR MALDIVES

KUWAIT PASS DOHA

CINCPAC, CINCEUR, CINCUSNAVEUR AND CINCLANT FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, IO

SUBJECT: RATIONALE FOR NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN  
OCEAN AND PROPOSED EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA.

1. US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER HAS INDICATED THAT  
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IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO RE-ESTABLISH

THE PATTERN OF REGULAR VISITS OF US NAVY VESSELS INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN THAT HAD BEEN DISRUPTED BY THE VIETNAM WAR, AND THAT "WE EXPECT THAT OUR PRESENCE THERE WILL BE MORE FREQUENT AND MORE REGULAR THAN IN THE PAST."

2. CURRENT US NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ARE COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF PERIODICALLY AUGMENTING THE MINIMAL PERMANENT PRESENCE WE HAVE MAINTAINED IN THAT AREA FOR OVER A GENERATION. THE MOST RECENT DEPLOYMENTS HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY THE SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE THERE AND THEIR ABILITY TO INTRODUCE ADDITIONAL FORCES QUICKLY INTO THE AREA. BROADLY SPEAKING, THE SOVIETS HAVE DEMONSTRATED AN INCREASED READINESS TO USE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SHOWS OF FORCE TO INFLUENCE EVENTS WHERE MAJOR US INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE, AND TO PROJECT MILITARY POWER INTO DISTANT AREAS, INCLUDING THE INDIAN OCEAN, AS SOVIET NAVAL FORCES AND AIRLIFT CAPABILITIES HAVE GROWN. WITH THE PROBABLY OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, A STILL GREATER SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

AREA, WHICH OF COURSE INCLUDES THE RED SEA AND PERSIAN GULF, WILL BE BOTH POSSIBLE AND PROBABLE.

3. IN OUR JUDGMENT, AN ADEQUATE US PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN PROVIDES A CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS OF OUR RESOLVE TO ENSURE A CREDIBLE MILITARY CAPABILITY THERE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF US FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A SALUTARY EFFECT ON THE SOVIETS BY UNDERSCORING OUR STRATEGIC MOBILITY. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT OUR DEPLOYMENTS ARE NOT A THREAT TO ANY NATION OR GROUP OF NATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, NO SPECIFIC TASKS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED OUR FORCES EXCEPT TO MAINTAIN GENERAL OPERATIONAL PROFICIENCY WHILE ON STATION IN THE AREA. HOWEVER, THE PRESENCE OF THESE FORCES ASSURES US AN ADEQUATE CAPABILITY TO MEET CONTINGENCY SITUATIONS INVOLVING FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS ON OR NEAR THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL AS WELL AS OFFERING A DETERRENT EFFECT TO POTENTIAL HARASSMENT OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL STRAITS AND SEA LANES. THESE CONSIDERATIONS HAVE FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE NEED FOR SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE GENERAL AREA.  
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4. IN SUM, OUR CAPABILITY TO DEPLOY A US FORCE INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA SUPPORTS NOT ONLY THE US NATIONAL INTEREST, BUT THE INTERESTS OF OUR CLOSEST FRIENDS AND ALLIES AS WELL, SINCE SUCH A FORCE PROVIDES A TANGIBLE REMINDER OF OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA. HOWEVER, MAINTAINING NAVAL FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IS NOT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. THE SHIPS THAT

HAVE BEEN RECENTLY DEPLOYED HAVE COME FROM THE WESTERN PACIFIC. IN VIEW OF THE EXTENDED DISTANCES INVOLVED, IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO SECURE BUNKERING AND LIMITED FACILITY SUPPORT FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. HOWEVER, IN LOOKING AHEAD, IF WE WISH TO HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO MOVE OR MAINTAIN OUR SHIPS IN THE AREA, DEVELOPMENT OF MORE PRACTICAL SUPPORT FACILITIES SEEMS ESSENTIAL. AN OBVIOUS SOLUTION IS DIEGO GARCIA, WITH SOME SUPPLEMENTAL BUNKERING AND AIRCRAFT LANDING RIGHTS ELSEWHERE IN THE AREA.

5. CONSEQUENTLY, WE INTEND TO EXPAND OUR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA TO MAKE IT A USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT FACILITY FOR US FORCES OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. THIS FACILITY WILL BE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR A FLEXIBLE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING MAINTENANCE, BUNKERING, AIRCRAFT STAGING, AND ENHANCED COMMUNICATIONS. THE CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET NOW BEING PRESENTED TO CONGRESS CONTAINS A REQUEST FOR \$29 MILLION TO IMPROVE SUPPORT FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA. SPECIFIC PROJECTS WE HAVE IN MIND ARE INCREASED FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY, DEEPENING OF THE LAGOON TO PROVIDE AN ANCHORAGE, LENGTHENING THE EXISTING 8000-FOOT RUNWAY, AND EXPANDING THE AIRFIELD PARKING AREA, IN ADDITION TO CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AND CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL QUARTERS.

6. IN 1965, THE BRITISH CONSTITUTED A NUMBER OF INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS UNDER THEIR CONTROL INTO WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY. BY AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON DECEMBER 30, 1966, THE US AND UK AGREED THAT THESE ISLANDS WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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AVAILABLE FOR THE DEFENSE PURPOSES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS, INITIALLY FOR A PERIOD OF 50 YEARS. UNDER THE TERMS OF THIS ARRANGEMENT, BOTH GOVERNMENTS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE IN DECEMBER OF 1970 TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON DIEGO GARCIA IN THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO. CURRENT PLANS TO DEVELOP EXPANDED LOGISTICS SUPPORT FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA, AVAILABLE FOR THE USE OF BOTH US AND BRITISH FORCES, ARE IN COMPLETE ACCORD WITH THE INTENT AND BASIC PHILOSOPHY SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL 1966 AGREEMENT. WE WILL BE OPERATING FROM WHAT WILL, IN FACT, BE A SELF SUSTAINED FACILITY ON BRITISH SOVEREIGN TERRITORY IN THE OUTER REACHES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN WITH MINIMAL POLITICAL OR MILITARY VISIBILITY. THUS WE BELIEVE THAT TO ASSURE OUR CONTINUED ABILITY TO DEPLOY US FORCES INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA, THE FACILITIES WE

NOW PROPOSE AT DIEGO GARCIA ARE ESSENTIAL.

7. ABOVE TEXT IS RATIONALE WHICH ADDRESSEES MAY USE IN  
CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS SENT SEPTTEL REGARDING NOTIFICA-  
TION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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